

REMARKS

The Official Action requires Restriction between two identified inventions as follows:

Group I, claims 1-6, directed to a method of compressing and cooling natural gas; and

Group II, claims 7-13, directed to an apparatus.

Responsive to the requirement to elect a single invention, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-6, drawn to a method of compressing and cooling natural gas, with traverse.

This restriction requirement is improper as the claims and subject matter of both Group I and Group II have already received a substantive rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested.

The Official Action further requires an Election of Species between three identified species:

Species A, pertaining to Figure 2;

Species B, pertaining to Figure 4; and

Species C, pertaining to Figure 5.

In response, election of species, Applicant provisionally elects Species A to Figure 2, with traverse.

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 8, and 11-13 read on the elected embodiment.

This election of species requirement is improper as the claims and subject matter of all species have already received a substantive rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the election of species requirement are requested.

An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the attorney for Applicant at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this case would be helpful in advancing prosecution.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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